

Summary from Charge Meeting

A&S Strategic Planning for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

Tuesday, November 28th from 4-5 pm, NCH 504

In Attendance (22): Christa Acampora, Laura Galloway, Jack Van Horn, Fiona Greenland, David Parichy, Sally Pusede, Aynne Kokas, Andrew Kahrl, David Getsy, Jack Chen, Dan Gingerich, Sheetal Sekhri, Ashon Crawley, Anna Brickhouse, Mona Kasra, Nicole Mitchell Gantt, Kerry Grannis, Jessica McDermott, Jenn Bair, Anna Towns, China Scherz, John Carfagno

- Brief introduction of meeting attendees (faculty committee and members of the Dean's Office)
- Welcome from Dean Acampora, introduction of the A&S Strategic Plan for Research process in alignment with UVA's 2030 plan and its goal for research excellence
 - Acknowledgement of previous research strategic planning efforts
 - Intention to build from these efforts in a transparent and inclusive manner to position A&S strategically on a path toward research excellence
 - Updates on this process available at [Strategic Planning | Office of the Dean \(virginia.edu\)](#)
- Charge for the committee
 - Develop specific, actionable recommendations for enhancing a climate of activity, excellence, and boldness in research, scholarship, and creative activity, including:
 - Identification of specific research strengths and opportunities
 - Prioritization of areas for investment
 - Goal to elevate the whole of A&S' research enterprise while also targeting opportunities that would distinguish A&S at UVA from its peers
 - Defining prospective research infrastructure investments in A&S
 - The committee should inform their recommendations through:
 - Requesting and analyzing key resource documents
 - Developing a framework of metrics for benchmarking and data collection
 - Scouting opportunities across divisions of A&S, across schools at the University, and via external relationships and partnerships
 - Achieving broad levels of faculty engagement
 - One component of the Research Planning process is to develop plans for research cores, including a Quantitative Core, a Humanities Core, and an Arts Core.
 - Cores tend to be organized around a shared area of expertise or piece of expensive research equipment. They may also serve as sources of ideas generation and encourage multi/trans-disciplinary collaboration.
 - Cores should seek out opportunities for interaction across schools at the University in addition to across units within Arts & Sciences.

- The Dean is committing to an investment of up to \$25 million over the next four years to support approved recommendations from the committee
 - Think of this project not as a faculty hiring plan, but rather as a comprehensive research engagement plan for all. We want to galvanize the community to embrace a culture of research, scholarship, and creative activity
- Time for questions and comments from faculty committee members, with responses from Dean Acampora and Associate Dean Galloway:
 - Through this process we will invest in A&S and create pathways for multi/trans-disciplinary research
 - The committee should, in essence, design a compass driven by metrics appropriate for the various divisions in A&S, guiding our response to the questions “What is research excellence and how can we achieve it?”
 - Opportunities for investment and identification of barriers to achieving research excellence should both be identified as part of this process
 - Initial thematic possibilities to explore include synergies between new music/performing arts facility and new school of data science, artificial intelligence and how generative AI might impact the workforce, and biotechnology
- Timeline for project
 - Two working meetings for the main steering committee and two for research core co-chairs in late November/early December 2023
 - Substantive analytical work will be done in January and February 2024
 - March/April 2024 is a time to distill analysis into specific plans, initiatives, and reports
 - Goal for a report to be submitted to the Dean in May 2024 (or early summer if needed)
 - Scope of this project and its impacts includes the next five to seven years
- Action Items
 - Working meetings before the end of the fall semester
 - To include identification of metrics, requests for data, a plan for broader faculty engagement with the strategic planning process, etc.
 - The committee can contact Laura (overseeing the project), Jessica (project manager), or others in the Dean’s Office if support is needed. A data analyst will be available to provide support for project
 - Committee members will work with Jessica to schedule next set of meetings